

## Let's Purge the Augean Stables!

Karen Wagner

**T**HE over-emphasis on and the misuse of intercollegiate athletics have plagued higher education for many years. In spite of the protests of faculty members and administrators, in spite of "sanity codes" and other attempted reforms, this plague still remains. It seems no longer possible or reasonable to conduct college sports on an amateur basis. Many people feel that an amateur is no longer qualified to participate in college athletics. Oftentimes the colleges themselves are more interested in a winning football team than in setting and keeping high academic standards in the field of education. Colleges have taken drastic measures in order to recruit the best athletes. Colleges offer the athlete what he needs in room, board, tuition and fees, books, supplies, and some miscellaneous items. Oftentimes the boys are offered a weekly or monthly allowance or the use of a car. Athletes are given private tutors, special help on their lessons, help to get a summer job, and money if a certain game is won.

Harold W. Stoke, in his essay, "College Athletics," suggests that universities hire professional athletes to represent them in intercollegiate competition. In this way the athletic activities of the college would no longer interfere with the students' academic career. However, many universities, as well as students, protest the hiring of professionals. They feel that this would be unfair to the students who are on the teams as well as to the students who like to watch their classmates play ball. Students, as well as faculty members, do not want the athletics of the school to be separated from the school. When a game is won, students and faculty members like to say that the best player is attending the college with which they are associated.

It has also been suggested that all athletic scholarships be taken out of the hands of alumni groups. Alumni, anxious to win athletic events at any price, are more prone to offer Cadillacs to the player than to see that he gets an education. Every athlete should be required to progress toward a degree. If the boy is interested only in playing football and not in getting an education, he should not be in college. The penalties imposed on boys who offer themselves to the highest bidder should be made more strict. A rule should be passed that suspends the offending athlete, as well as the college guilty of unscrupulous recruiting. A student is going to think twice before attempting to break the rule.

Institutions of higher education must become and remain, first and foremost, places of teaching, study, and research. Athletics are important, but in a lesser degree than the fundamental activities of a center of learning. Accrediting agencies must take a greater interest in athletic policies of colleges. The Association of American Colleges, the American Association of University Professors, and other inter-

ested organizations should bring moral pressure to bear upon the situation in order to remedy the glaring evil in higher education.

## A FORTRESS DIVINE

The heart pulses and thrills  
 At its sight:  
 Nowhere in the world  
 Can anything be so fair,  
 For it *is* the world;  
 It is fairer than the sun,  
 Yet it *is* the sun;  
 It is fairer than the sky,  
 Yet it *is* the sky . . .  
 And the rose and the tree  
 And the rolling lawn.

In it I see a dove,  
 Slow and at the same time swift,  
 Innocent yet somehow knowing,  
 Priceless . . .  
 So precious that one dare not clutch,  
 Dare not hold too fast  
 For fear of smothering it,  
 Choking it out . . .  
 When present sadness and joy suffuse  
 The soul,  
 The feet run and skip and hop  
 . . . or they freeze to the earth  
 Unable to move.

Next to its blaze,  
 Sunsets lack in color.  
 Some die for it,  
 But I would rather live for it  
 And in living  
 Exalt it.

Blessed be the man  
 Who knows  
 Yet would not speak of it  
 To those who know not,  
 For they would think him insane . . .  
*He who is the sane one,*  
*They who are the dead.*